

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

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S/PRS - MR. FUNSETH (INFO)

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IO/P - MR. BLACHLY

NEA/ARN - MR. OULLEN

AF/P - MRS. RUSSELL

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R 102331Z SEP 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USMISSION NATO

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AMEMBASSY SANA

USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
CINCUEUR

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING

GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL
CINCEUR FOR POLAD

FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS
FROM DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S PRESS BRIEFING FOR
SEPTEMBER 10, 1975:

QGM IS THE SECRETARY'S TESTIMONY BEFORE THE ARMED SERVICES
COMMITTEE TOMORROW OPEN SESSION?

A. I BELIEVE IT IS CLOSED.

Q. IS THAT ON THE MIDDLE EAST AGREEMENT?

A. YES. THAT IS MY UNDERSTANDING.

Q. AT WHOSE REQUEST IS IT CLOSED?

A. I DON'T KNOW.

Q. BOB, CONCERNING THE MIDDLE EAST AGREEMENT, IS THE

ACCOUNT IN THE TIMES TODAY ACCURATE ABOUT SOME OF THE
ISRAELI-AMERICAN UNDERSTANDING?

A. WITH REFERENCE TO VARIOUS PRESS REPORTS BEING
PUBLISHED ABOUT THE INTERIM AGREEMENT, SOME OF WHICH ARE
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PARTIALLY INACCURATE, I AM JUST NOT GOING TO BE ABLE TO
COMMENT ON THEM.

Q. WELL, YOU CAN'T LEAVE THAT HANGING OUT THAT SOME ARE
PARTIALLY INACCURATE. WE ARE NOT INTERESTED IN VAGUE
LABELS. IF YOU ARE GOING TO CALL THAT STORY INACCURATE,
SAY SO. OTHERWISE, DON'T.

A. WITH ALL DUE RESPECT, I AM GOING TO HAVE TO STAND WITH THE REPLY I GAVE. IT IS ON THE RECORD, AND IT STAYS ON THE RECORD.

Q. HOW ABOUT THE WHOLE SUBJECT OF LEAKS? I REMEMBER THE STATE DEPARTMENT ISSUED A RATHER STRONG AND SOMEWHAT ANGRY STATEMENT SOME MONTHS AGO WHEN THERE WERE LEAKS FROM ISRAEL ABOUT WHAT MIGHT BE GOING ON BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND ISRAEL. DOES THE DEPARTMENT HAVE ANY STRONG FEELINGS NOW ABOUT THE LEAKS OF ELEMENTS OF SECRET COMMITMENTS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND ISRAEL, TRIANGULAR COMMITMENTS INVOLVING EGYPT?

A. I AM NOT GOING TO COMMENT ON THE REPORTS THEMSELVES. AS FAR AS THE QUESTION OF LEAKS, OUR POSITION ON THAT IS WELL KNOWN. IT HASN'T CHANGED.

Q. WHAT IS THAT? THAT IT IS NOT BENEFICIAL TO THE PROCESS?

A. IN GENERAL, WE HAVE CONSISTENTLY OBJECTED TO THE LEAKS OF PAPERS RELATED TO NEGOTIATIONS. BUT AS FAR AS THE INTERIM AGREEMENT IS CONCERNED, THE SECRETARY ADDRESSED HIMSELF TO THAT POINT YESTERDAY: THAT WE ARE IN CONSULTATION WITH THE COMMITTEES, AND WE WILL BE WORKING OUT WITH THEM AN AGREED METHOD OF PUBLICATION. AND HE AFFIRMED THAT IT WOULD BE THE FULLEST DISCLOSURE OF A DIPLOMATIC RECORD THAT HAS EVER BEEN MADE. AND WE STAND BY THAT. BUT THAT HAS NOT BEEN WORKED OUT YET.

Q. WHAT ARE THESE INACCURACIES THAT YOU ARE TALKING ABOUT?

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A. I AM JUST NOT GOING TO GO BEYOND WHAT I SAID, KEN.

Q. WHEN THE SECRETARY GOES UP TO THE HILL, DOES HE FEEL

SOME INSECURITY ABOUT TESTIFYING BEHIND CLOSED DOORS WHEN THERE SEEMS TO BE THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE PEOPLE HE TESTIFIES TO MIGHT RELEASE THE INFORMATION? DOES THAT RESTRAIN HIS ACCOUNTING TO CONGRESS, WHICH HE PROMISED YESTERDAY WOULD BE FULL AND COMPLETE?

A. I THINK THAT ON THE SECRETARY'S ATTITUDE ON THE HEARINGS, HE ANSWERED THAT QUESTION YESTERDAY. HE SAID IN GENERAL HE THOUGHT THAT THE DEBATE SO FAR AND HIS TESTIMONY, ALL OF THE CONSIDERATION BY THE CONGRESS HAS BEEN IN GENERAL HELPFUL.

Q. AS I RECALL THE STATEMENT AT THE TIME OF THE ISRAELI LEAK, THOUGH, IT WAS A DENUNCIATION AND AN INSTRUCTION FROM THE PRESIDENT AGAINST ENGAGING IN SELECTIVE, COMPETITIVE LEAKS, OR THE LEAKING OF COMPETITIVE SECRETS, OR SOME SUCH PHRASEOLOGY? IS THIS APPARENT LEAK IN THE TIMES TODAY OUR SIDE OF THE COIN, OR WHAT?

A. YOU WILL HAVE TO ASK THE AUTHOR OF THE STORY WHERE HE OBTAINED HIS INFORMATION. I DO NOT KNOW WHERE HE GOT IT.

KISSINGER

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